

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 11864

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECLA, EGEN, PFOR, MX, CI

SUBJ: REGIONAL MEETING ON HABITAT MEXICO CITY: CHILE

1. VITERITI (ECLA SECRETARIAT) INDICATED THAT INITIAL REACTION BY CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF ECLA MEETING IN MEXICO CITY WAS STRONG LETTER TO ECLA DIRECTOR QUESTIONING REASONS FOR SELECTING MEXICO CITY AS SITE; ADMONISHED SECRETARIAT FOR FAILURE TO HOLD PRIOR CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS; AND ADVISED ECLA THAT CHILE WOULD NOT DECIDE ON SENDING A REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CONFERENCE UNTIL ECLA FURNISHED ANSWERS.

2. ECLA SECRETARIAT RESPONDED IN A CORDIAL TONE: THAT THE DECISION TO HOLD MEETING IN MEXICO CITY WAS TAKEN IN VANCOUVER BY LATIN GROUP; THAT MEXICANS HAD OFFERED TO FINANCE ALL EXTRA COSTS RELATED TO HOLDING MEETING AWAY FROM HEADQUARTERS; THAT REQUIRING PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH GOVERNMENTS ON SELECTION OF SITES FOR MEETINGS WOULD BE AN ADMINISTRATIVE NIGHTMARE; AND THAT THE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE FULL RIGHTS AS ACTIVE ECLA MEMBER GOVERNMENT.

3. AFTER SOME DELAY, GOC NOTIFIED ECLA IT HAD DECIDED TO SEND A TECHNICAL (ARCHITECT-PROFESSOR) RE-
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PRESENTATIVE, IGNACIO SANTA MARIA SANTA CRUZ, WHO APPARENTLY HAS PARTICIPATED IN ALL MEXICO CITY ECLA AND

LATIN AMERICAN GROUP ACTIVITIES. CHILEAN WAS HOWEVER ONLY LATIN REP NOT REPEAT NOT INVITED BY ECHEVERRIA TO INAUGURATION OF THIRD WOULD INSTITUTE.

4. COMMENT: AS DESCRIBED, GOC REACTION SEEMS TO FOLLOW PATTERN OF RELATIONS WITH UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, I.E. NEED FOR EXPLANATION OF ANY ACTION WHICH, IN GOC VIEW, MIGHT HAVE AN ELEMENT OF ANTI-CHILE BIAS, AND THE NEED FOR RESPECTFUL TONE IF CHILEAN GOVERNMENT CO-OPERATION/PARTICIPATION IS TO BE OBTAINED.

THOMPSON

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